

How to Amend the Constitution.

Yesterday's *Whig* opposes the proposition to clothe the Legislature with the powers of a convention, and does so wisely and logically. Republican government would lose by the step. In the solemn proceedings of making a new law the people should assemble in convention for the purpose; and when they concede to a mere Legislature that momentous business they not only lose power, but the process is short, to a good degree, of its dignity and sanctity. The *Whig's* view of the proposition is well sustained by its arguments.

With regard to special amendments to the Constitution to be voted on by the people, the *Whig* takes some days since—objecting to the submission under this authority of a number of amendments at once to be voted upon as a whole. We have no idea that it was intended by this grant of power to the Legislature to authorize a wholesale modification of the organic law, and there is a serious objection to submitting a number of amendments at once. The *Whig* succinctly states it thus: "We neither want to get rid of the bad, nor yet to accept the bad for the sake of the good." The true policy is to propose very cautiously a few amendments at a time, such as are made immediately important by circumstances; and in this way to go on with amendments until we are content. In that way the voters would vote understandingly, and would be relieved from the embarrassment of taking bad with good, or rejecting the good to avoid the bad.

However, we think practical good sense will prevail upon this question.

United States Senators.

California wants the United States senators elected by the people. That would be contrary to the evident intentions of the framers of the Constitution, who attempted to make the Senate a conservative and revisory body that would be independent in a great measure of the temporary ebullitions of popular opinion. Their election by the Legislatures of the States very strongly fortifies their conservative character.

If, however, their election is referred to the people, then we want a modification of the Constitution necessary to the harmony of the office with its popularization. The senators should represent bodies of people as nearly equal in number as it is convenient to make them. Not only would this be proper for the reason stated, but also for the additional reason that the Federal Government has so absorbed the powers of the States as to make the State representative feature of the United States Senate out of tune with the times. There would be a peculiar fitness in thus completely popularizing the Senate by robbing it of its State feature, because the smaller States of the Union have been conspicuous in favoring the measures which have swallowed up State rights, and they should be deprived of their undue representative weight in the United States Senate. They should not be the beneficiaries of almost the last remaining State-rights feature of the United States Constitution.

Whenever the people get the opportunity to make the proposed change in the manner of electing the senators they will recast the body. There can hardly be a doubt of this.

The Whiskey Crusade—Intemperance.

The crusade of the women in the Northwest against whiskey-villains is so connected with social economy, and so full of suggestions concerning public morals, that we propose to devote to it a few more reflections. The vice of intemperance, as we have frequently said, is that from which women suffer most. The wretchedness to which families are everywhere reduced, their want and misery, and the neglect of so many children that live vagabond-lives, and become thieves and murderers, all are chiefly due to the intemperance of ardent spirits. It is not wonderful that women should become desperate, and in their agony should resort to extraordinary means to put an end to the causes of their misery; but the efforts of the women of the Northwest are more remarkable for their zeal than for their judgment.

The manner of the crusade involves those who conduct it in violation of law. Their assembling in the streets in large numbers before saloons, praying and singing, obstructs the streets, creates disturbance, and obstructs access to the saloons, which is licensed, and under the protection of law. They not only violate law themselves, but they provoke others to it, for the assailed persons may retaliate with jeers and taunts and voices of all sorts and bands of music, to the great scandal and annoyance of society. With the opposing parties employing their different means of annoyance, it would become a question simply of endurance, and end in abortion. Public opinion would decide that the movement was contemptible, and that it was not deserving of sympathy. Should it, however, on the other hand, become popular, it will be seized hold of by those who seek public favor, and they will deprive it of the only thing which makes it respectable—the honest and simple-minded desire of the women to defend themselves.

The end will be a reaction which will leave the women weaker and more helpless than before.

But there are other evils inherent in the course of these poor women, leading inevitably to consequences worse than the very ills they seek to put an end to:

1. The irritation of the liquor-dealers and their fear of the injury to so lucrative and widespread an interest, which will rouse those engaged in it to more determined resistance; and in a physical or public warfare of this kind their sex is utterly unequal to cope with the whiskey interest, which is a power in the land.

2. It will produce domestic breaches without limit; for this public interference, and this effort at domestic coercion, will destroy the love and peace of married life more effectually than whiskey itself—it will make the men more debauched drunkards than ever.

3. This street-praying—this use of prayer, or rather of the formula of prayer, not for solemn invocation of the Deity, but as an offensive means of assault, impairs respect for religion, whose guise it assumes, brings discredit on holy things thus perverted, and hardens the hearts which they desire to melt and to influence.

4. This street-praying—this publicity—debases and degrades the sex whose specialty it is to win and to lead—not to drive. Woman is always lowered from her high pedestal when she descends into the public arena of force and conflict, whether as a

"bolshevik" or as "citizens" of the French revolution, or as a rabble of abolitionists, or as a bloomer, a long-haired reformer, or an oratrix and lobbyist for women's rights. In each case she is rebelling against, and quarrelling with God because He has not made her a man." The moment she steps out of her modest privacy, lays aside that sensitive delicacy which makes her shrink from publicity, assumes the role of a man, and seeks to be a co-equal reformer, she strips herself of her native strength as surely as Samson did when he allowed his locks to be shaved—she loses the special power and influence which her Maker endowed her with, and she is degraded as a woman without being respected as a man. Aught that impairs that best safeguard of humanity, woman's influence, is an evil far greater than intemperance itself. Of all these women who are thus parading their persons and their devotion on the highways, we doubt if one-tenth are of those whom we could accept as models of the tender, modest, and gentle wife, who would make her home a heaven, and who is the real sufferer. The impression made on us, that these "crusaders" are of the stamp who at home do not lure men from the bottle.

5. This attempt at coercion, as do all such attempts of every sort, weakens the cause of temperance, and tends by reaction to give a greater strength and obstinacy to the habit of indulgence, adding to it the habit of deceit, of private drinking, &c. It has become an adage that "temperance advocates are the most intemperate of men"; that is, intemperate in language and action and schemes; they too often degenerate into self-seekers, striving for cheap renown by excess and intolerance; they bring odium on the cause and disgust to its advocates, until even those not addicted to the vice lose sight of its deformity in the greater repulsiveness of the opponents of it.

Most men refuse to have even plum-pudding crammed down their throats. It appears to us that the great mistake of the reformers on any subject of morals is that they seek to reform men from without instead of from within—to force them into goodness by external pressure, by legislation, &c. Now, no legislation can make a man good. It may curb and restrain the practice of the forbidden thing; and in this result, even it fails unless the legislation be, but the expression of the general sense of the community, as is the case in theft, murder, perjury, &c. But these reformers seem to think that it is only useful to pass a law to put an end to anything which that law shall prohibit. Save in absolute governments, any law is in a great measure a nullity which is not the expression of public sentiment.

The use and sale of alcoholic drinks are among those things which cannot be extirpated by mere legislation. The use of alcoholic stimulants seems to be inherent in the human family. No portion of the human race, we believe, has yet been discovered who did not have and use alcohol in some form or other. The use of it is as universal as that of narcotics or of animal food. Alcohol is recognized by every law-making power in the civilized world as an article of commerce, manufacture, and trade; and while it is regulated it is not only permitted but it is protected by every government, no matter how enlightened, civilized, or Christianized; and it is utterly useless now to try to drive it out of existence by external coercion in any form.

We have written this note not from any desire to apologize for or to advocate intemperance, or even to defend the use of ardent spirits by any one to excess. If it were possible, society would be happy in confining its uses to medicinal purposes, under the advice and written prescriptions of responsible physicians; but that is not possible as society is now constituted—we must place our hope in public opinion and the conventional rules of social intercourse. Intemperance may be done by restricting the use of liquor at parties and dinners. The rules of hospitality may be greatly improved in this way to the inestimable advantage of hosts and guests. That the entire disuse of stimulants in social intercourse is within the range of probability we have pretty clearly declared our belief in the beginning of this article; and we believe more good may be accomplished by promoting its prudent use than by attempting to prevent its use altogether. We do not, nevertheless, ignore the evils of intemperance.

While we with our heart of hearts sympathize with the mothers, sisters, wives, and all women in the agonies inflicted on them by this great enemy of man and woman, we endeavor to present a practical, not a sentimental, view of the evil and its consequences, immediate and remote, in this crusade, and to warn the sex against them. But is there no help? Is woman powerless? We answer, "No." We say that the remedy is in her hands—that she can do much to cure the evil. How? By making any and every use of alcohol in excess, and its attendant dissipations, dissipation, disgraceful, and therefore hateful, in like manner as lying, stealing, assassination, &c. Let her feel it and treat it as a crime—let her bear herself toward those who are in this way guilty as she would toward criminals—let her exhibit toward such but half the merciless bearing, the relentless severity, that she shows to a sister who, however unfortunate, betrayed and penitent, has made a single departure from chastity, and woman will have seldom to complain of the evils of intemperance. She will in a happy degree diminish the vice, to her great glory and the inexpressible joy of society. Let her discountenance it herself by disuse of it as well as discountenance its improper use by everybody; let her make no approaches save those of silence to those who are bound by domestic ties; but let her teach her children the lesson of hatred to alcohol and to sin when she teaches them their prayers; let her refuse to give her confidence and friendship and, so far as she has the liberty, let her not grant the privilege of association to those who indulge in excess; let her never receive a lover nor marry a husband who becomes excited over the fatal bowl any more than she would were he a thief, a liar, or a coward. Let her do this, and she will put a sure end to intemperance in the use of stimulants, and to nearly all other vices—drunkenness being the vice that engenders all others.

Then the remedy is in her hand. She can apply it in her legitimate province. In reality woman can make any acts respectable or disreputable, not only by what she thinks of it, but especially by the manner in which she treats those who practice them. In this, God has made her the ruling power—the maker and minister of social law—and by inexorable and firm, though lenient, exclusion from her favor and society she can in time effect the reform which no other power on earth can accomplish.

We entirely agree with the assertion of our neighbor the *Dispatch* that the farming

community is composed of sensible men. Indeed, when we reflect that they constitute the largest proportion of our population, and the representatives of perhaps ninety per cent of the wealth of the State, and that we are sensible men, we are not disposed to suspect their wisdom, especially when, with almost perfect unanimity, as is the case upon the interest question, they demand protection from an evil to which they will be directly traced the great depreciation in the value of their lands. *Whig* of yesterday.

But what about "a dirty little grange, composed of Tox, Dix, and Harry, issuing its edict from a secret convulsion?"

General Assembly of Virginia.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

SENATE.

Lieutenant-Governor WITHERS in the chair. Senate bill to amend and reenact the charter of the town of Woodstock, in the county of Shenandoah, was taken up and amendments agreed to. The Senate also agreed to amendments to Senate bill to incorporate the town of Gladeville, in the county of Wise. House bill for the

PROTECTION OF SHEEP.

In the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Powhatan, and Charlotte was read twice, and the rule requiring the commitment of the same was suspended. Mr. BRIDGES moved to strike out the country of Powhatan. Mr. THOMAS moved to refer the bill to the Committee on General Laws. Lost. Mr. MADDOX's amendment was then adopted and the bill passed.

ABOUT THE CAPITOL ROOF.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Superintendent of Public Buildings saying, in response to a Senate resolution, that "the resolution regarding the removal of rubbish could have no force, since no rubbish was at or near the point designated. The duty required by the second resolution was performed to the extent of removing all rubbish that was on a weight upon the ceiling of the portico, but not to the extent of danger to the building." Laid on the table.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. HENDERSON, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, reported without amendment House bill to amend section 1 of chapter 175 of the Code of 1873 with reference to the Code of 1860. Without amendment. House bill to amend and reenact section 20 of chapter 146 of the Code, relative to the limitation of suits. Also, with the recommendation that it do not pass, House bill to amend and reenact sections 6 and 7 of chapter 17 of the Code of 1873 to provide how the bonds of certain officers and clerks of government shall be executed and approved. Also, a bill to amend and reenact section 6 of chapter 46 of the Code of 1873, in relation to filling vacancies in the office of county or city treasurer.

Mr. PRIDEMORE, from the Committee on General Laws, reported without amendment House bill incorporating the Germania Bannocher of the city of Richmond. Also, without amendment, House bill to protect mocking-birds in the Commonwealth.

RECONSIDERED.

On motion of Mr. BLAND, the vote by which Senate bill in reference to suits against the Commonwealth was rejected was reconsidered, and on his further motion the bill was laid on the table.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. GRANT: Bill to amend and reenact section 67 of chapter 78 of the Code of 1873, in relation to funds of public free schools.

By Mr. SMITH: Bill to prescribe how by-pothecations of products and commodities shall be made, and to prohibit the hypothecation of consignments except on certain conditions. [Introduced as a substitute for the warehouse bill.]

CLERICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK presented a bill to amend and reenact section 27 of chapter 16 of the Code so as to provide that the salary of the clerk in the office of the Executive, the same not to exceed in cost \$2,000 per annum. Mr. KIRKPATRICK stated that since the abolishment of the office of paid aid-camp the Governor was only authorized to employ temporary clerical assistance not exceeding in cost \$1,000 per annum, and could employ one clerk, which was insufficient.

Mr. PRIDEMORE accused the Governor of inconsistency in that he declared in his message that the office of aid-camp was expensive and useless, and now desired to pay as much as \$2,000 per annum to a clerk, who discharged clerical duty. Mr. KIRKPATRICK explained that the late law gave the Executive authority to appoint an aid at \$2,800, and a temporary clerk at \$1,000; therefore, there would be an actual saving by this arrangement of at least \$1,800.

The bill was discussed further by Messrs. HENDRY, NOWLIN, and THOMAS, and it appearing that the business of the Governor's office demanded additional clerical force, Mr. PRIDEMORE withdrew his objections. A motion that the bill have its second reading to-day failed, 39 yeas, and the bill was laid on the table.

NEW CODES.

Mr. LACKLAND offered the following, which lies over the day under the rules: Resolved, That the Superintendent of Public Printing be and he is hereby authorized and directed to have such of the copies of the new Code of 1873 as have been directed to be furnished to the several clerks of the State, bound up in the form of a book, and to be equal in size as possible, instead of one.

PASSED.

Senate bill to incorporate the Piedmont Farmers' Association.

House bill to amend and reenact section 25 of chapter 158 of the Code so as to increase the pay of grand jurors to one dollar per day for each day they serve—aye, 19; noes, 8.

Senate bill to incorporate the Jonesville Dollar Savings Bank in the county of Giles. House bill to incorporate the town of Big Lick.

House bill in regard to the duty of township assessors to extend school tax, with amendments. House bill authorizing D. A. Plecker to erect a toll-bridge across North river near Crawford, Rockingham county, with an amendment.

House bill repealing so much of the act in force December 28th, 1871, entitled an act to provide for the protection of fish in the waters of New river and its tributaries, as relates to the payment of damages—aye, 70; noes, 10.

The special order, the bill in relation to was postponed until next Wednesday.

BILLS THAT HAVE BECOME LAWS.

The Governor approved the following on the 20th of February, 1874: An act to amend the act of the late sheriff of the Commonwealth.

An act to incorporate the town of Newbern, in the county of Pulaski. In force March 1st, 1874. An act to amend and reenact section 4 of chapter 6 of the Code, in relation to vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor—aye, 18; noes, 7.

HOUSE BILL TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTION 20 OF CHAPTER 146 OF THE CODE OF 1873, RELATIVE TO THE LIMITATION OF SUITS.

At 3 P. M., it appearing that no quorum was present, Mr. KIRKPATRICK moved for a call of the House. Agreed to. Mr. NOWLIN moved that the Senate adjourn. Lost—aye, 8; noes, 10.

The Clerk then called the roll, and the following members responded: "Present," Messrs. Allen, Beale, Bland, Dawson, Eastham, Evans, Graham, Holland, Kirkpatrick, Lackland, Lawson, Maddox, Moffett, Newberry, Nowlin, Pridemore, Ragland, Smith of Nelson, Ward, and Wynne—22.

The Clerk announced a quorum present. The President ordered the Clerk to make out a list of absentees, and let an officer go out and arrest those members, and bring them to the bar of the House.

Mr. C. T. SMITH asked who would pay the sergeant's fees for the arrests.

The President announced that that would come out of the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. PRIDEMORE, at 2:30, the Senate adjourned, and the call of the House was broken up.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

House met at 12 M.—Speaker HANGER in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Manchester.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED. By Mr. BROOKS: Memorial of members of the bar of Petersburg and others praying an increase of salaries of judges.

By Mr. BROOKS: Bill to amend the charter of the Matagona Manufacturing Company, in the county of Stafford.

By Mr. YAGER: Petition of citizens of Surry, praying authority for council of said town to prohibit sale of intoxicating liquors within the limits of said town.

By Mr. OGDEN: Petition of citizens of Richmond asking amendments to charter of said city.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG: Bill to amend the act to incorporate the North River Railroad Company, approved March 21, 1872, and to change name.

JURISDICTION OF COUNTY AND CIRCUIT COURTS.

The Committee on Courts reported Senate bill to define and declare the meaning of the act regulating the jurisdiction of county and circuit courts, &c., with a recommendation that the House insist upon its amendment (to which the Senate had disagreed), and asked for a committee of conference.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Messrs. DOOLY, NEELEY, and BLAIR as a conference committee on the part of the House on the disagreeing votes on the Sunday liquor law, and Messrs. COOPER, KOSOW, and ROUSE as a conference committee on the disagreement on the bill to organize chain-gangs.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

House bill for the relief of the estate of William M. Humes, deceased, late sheriff of Fauquier, and his sureties.

House bill to prescribe the times for holding the terms of the circuit courts of this Commonwealth, and to repeal the section of the Code (chapter 153) authorizing the judges of said courts to fix said terms.

House bill to repeal the law prohibiting the exportation of flour and certain other commodities unless inspected as required by law.

House bill to amend the law in relation to the granting of charters by circuit courts.

House bill to incorporate the Hampton and Fort Monroe railway.

House bill to authorize John W. Ames, of Nansemond county, to erect a pier wharf on Nansemond river.

House bill confirming and ratifying an order of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun county concerning the town of Leesburg.

House bill to provide for the establishment of a true meridian line in each county of the Commonwealth.

House bill for the encouragement of land-purchasers and settlers in Virginia.

House bill to provide for a reorganization of the voters in cities and towns in the Commonwealth containing a population of five thousand.

House bill to incorporate the Valley Educational Association of Shenandoah county.

House bill to authorize Open Lodge, No. 116, A. F. and A. M., to borrow money and secure the same.

The Committee on Roads asked leave to have printed the bill "to prevent extortion and unjust discrimination in the rates charged for transportation on railroads." Agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

was granted to Messrs. SCRUGGS and ROUND for two days each, STOVALL for three days, WHARTON and LONGLEY for five days each, and GRAYES for six days.

PASSED.

Senate bill to authorize the legal voters of certain counties to vote upon the question of negotiating a loan or loans and to issue bonds for and in the name of said counties for the purpose of establishing a steamboat line between the landings on the Rappahannock river and the city of Baltimore, Maryland, or Norfolk, or both.

House bill incorporating the Virginia Relief Association.

House bill authorizing the sale of the Sperryville and Rappahannock turnpike.

House bill to relieve Henry G. Wax, late township collector of Estillville township, Scott county, from payment of damages—aye, 70; noes, 10.

INTEREST ON MONEY.

was postponed until next Wednesday.

BILLS THAT HAVE BECOME LAWS.

The Governor approved the following on the 20th of February, 1874: An act to amend the act of the late sheriff of the Commonwealth.

An act to provide for the collection of taxes and the county levy in the township of Manchester, Chesterfield county, as assessed for the year 1873.

Joint resolution authorizing and directing the removal of the State House and the removal of the State House from among them of an upright man, an exemplary citizen, a good neighbor, and warm-hearted friend.

DEATHS.

Died, at his residence in Loudoun county, on the 20th inst., in his fifty-fifth year of age, WILLIAM S. HARRIS, after a few days' illness of pneumonia.

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